



DEF 1- US
Department of State
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO USIE 00, JPM 04, NSC 10, SPI 02, SS 20, RSC 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07,

NSAE 00, P 04, ACDA 16, IO 13, RSR 01, 098 W

R 171127Z MAR 69

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6530

UNCLAS VIENNA 1265

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN REACTION PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
ABM DECISION

1. PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE GOT FRONT PAGE
COVERAGE FIVE VIENNA DAILIES MARCH 15; PEGGED HEADLINES
ON ANNOUNCEMENT MODIFIED ABM SYSTEM.

2. EDITORIALY, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE STATED
PRESIDENT DESIRES "RECONCILE TWO OBJECTIVES: WITH
NEW ABM CONCEPT"; KEEP COSTS LOW AND "GIVE SOVS
A CLEAR SIGNAL... THAT ONLY DIRECT US-SOV COOPERATION
WILL MAKE POSSIBLE GLOBAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT."
INDEPENDENT KURIER CLAIMED "DANGER OF ARMAMENTS:
ESCALATION WILL INCREASE EVEN WITH SUCH 'THIN SYSTEM';
HOWEVER AMERICANS HOPE IT WILL GIVE THEM BETTER
STARTING POSITION FOR COMING TALKS WITH SOVS."

3. ONLY ADVERSE EDITORIAL REACTION WAS SOCIALIST
ARBEITER-ZEITUNG (PAUL BLAU) WHICH SAID, "WHAT
PRESIDENT PRESUMABLY WANTS IS: FIRST, HELP HAWKS,
INCLUDING SECDEF TO SAVE FACE; SECOND, ARMS INDUSTRY
TEMPORARILY SATISFIED WITH FEW ADDITIONAL BILLIONS;
THIRD, OPPONENTS OF ABM PROGRAM SEE WILLINGNESS TO
SAVE WASTE; FOURTH AND NOT LEAST, SOVS TOO SHOW
UNDERSTANDING AND HAVE LET IT KNOWN THAT STILL INTER-
ESTED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS WHICH
PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TOGETHER WITH MODIFIED ABM

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PROGRAM."
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